Welcome

Jenny Underhill

Welcome all to our first newsletter of 2019! We are currently busy preparing for the AGM, and hope to see as many of you there as possible. As a committee we're always looking for people who want to be involved, at whatever level is convenient for them, so please do read through the positions available and considering coming to one of our AGM drop-ins to discuss being more involved. UNISON provides plenty of training and support, and there is a role for everyone. If you can't attend one of our drop-ins but you're interested in being involved just send an email, and we'll arrange for someone to meet with you.

Branch AGM — 28 March 2019, H/G21, 1:00–2:00 pm

You are warmly invited to the Branch Annual General Meeting, on Thursday 28 March 2019, at 1:00—2:00 pm in H/G21. A buffet lunch is available. The Annual General Meeting will elect your Branch Officers, Representatives and ratify the election of Workplace Stewards for the year ahead. Please sign up to [join us at the AGM](#) —we must be quorate!

If you wish to submit a motion for consideration, please send it to unison@york.ac.uk with the name of the Proposer and Seconder. If you'd like to stand for a position in the Branch, please ensure your nomination form is received at Branch at unison@york.ac.uk, or posted to Jenny Underhill, Branch Secretary, Security Centre, University of York, York, YO10 5DD.

AGM drop-in sessions: 7, 13 and 21 March 2019

If you’d like to find out more about how you can get involved with the Branch, we are holding a number of drop-in sessions across March. Come along for tea, coffee and cake!

- **Thursday 7 March 2019**: 08:30—10:30 am, Piazza Building, PZA/017 *(with breakfast)*
- **Wednesday 13 March 2019**: 10:00—11:00 am, Spring Lane Building, SLB/007
- **Wednesday 13 March 2019**: 2:00—3:00 pm, Spring Lane Building, SLB/006
- **Thursday 21 March 2019**: 12:00—1:00 pm, Law & Management Building, LMB/020
- **Thursday 21 March 2019**: 12:00—1:00 pm, Seebohm Rowntree Building, ATB/035
Branch positions include:

♦ **Branch Secretary**: is the point of contact for UNISON Leeds, oversees role of Officers and Reps, participates in HR negotiations, policies and collective communications

♦ **Branch Chair**: presides at all meetings of Branch and Committee, ensure business is properly conducted, works closely with the Secretary to provide leadership in the Branch

♦ **Treasurer**: conducts the Branch’s financial business, keeps accounts in accordance with the rules, advises Branch Officers and committee on financial management

♦ **Education Co-ordinator**: liaises with our partner York Learning and other providers in York

♦ **Equality Co-ordinator**: leads and co-ordinates the Branch’s equality work, supports training and development of other union representatives

♦ **Health and Safety Officer**: increases awareness of health and safety issues in the Branch, involved in negotiations with employers on health and safety matters

♦ **Communications Officer**: creates newsletters, updates social media and website

♦ **Membership Officer**: maps the Branch’s membership, monitors recruitment and leavers rates, makes recommendations to the committee on recruitment activities and targets

♦ **International Officer**: liaises with University of York socs and groups and promotes membership within international staff and working-students

♦ **Young Members’ Officer**: recruits new members, encourages existing young members to become active in the Branch, raises Young Members’ concerns to the committee

♦ **Labour Link Officer**: a paid up member of the Labour Party, attends regional Labour Link meetings

♦ **Welfare Officer**: provides Committee with up-to-date information on “There For You” services, ensures those seeking welfare assistance receive a prompt response

♦ **Retired Members Officer**: a retired member who would like to be more involved and promote a community within our retired members section

♦ **Union Learning Rep**: liaises with UNISON Leeds and Northern College to promote union training for members and reps/officers

♦ **Stewards**: we welcome any interest in members becoming stewards for your area/department

♦ **Workplace Reps**: point of contact for members, add information to noticeboards, bring feedback to Committee from members

### Pensions briefing sessions

From April 2019 contribution rates to The People's Pension will increase. Instead, you may be able to join the University of York Pension Fund.

The University's Pensions Team are running sessions where you can find out about the benefits of joining the Fund and the differences between it and The People's Pension. Places on the sessions are free but must be reserved in advance as numbers are limited.

You can reserve your place using the links below:

**Tuesday, 19 March** 10.30am in Piazza Building, PZA/106X  
**Wednesday, 20 March** 1:00 pm in Harry Fairhurst Building, LFA/144  
**Wednesday, 20 March** 2.30pm in Harry Fairhurst Building, LFA/144

The Pensions Team will be on hand during the sessions to ask any questions you might have. You can find more information about eligibility for joining the Fund on the Pensions website: [www.york.ac.uk/pensions](http://www.york.ac.uk/pensions)
Education bursaries available with UNISON

The Branch is continuing to offer education bursaries for the year ahead, so if there is a course you are interested in, why not think about signing up? The bursaries can cover courses in education, training or well-being, and you can study with York Learning, Languages for All, York College, or with other training providers in and around York.

Available bursaries:

- 15 Level 1 / introductory level and recreational courses up to £125
- 3 Level 2 / intermediate level courses up to £250
- 2 Level 3 / advanced level courses up to £350

All courses will be paid for on a first come, first served basis.

How to book a place on a course

**Level 1 / introductory level courses with York Learning:** Look through the York Learning brochure: [https://www.yortime.org.uk/yortime_home/default.aspx](https://www.yortime.org.uk/yortime_home/default.aspx). Choose your course, and book by telephoning an advisor on 01904 552806. Quote your membership number and complete the form with the advisor.

**Level 1 / introductory level courses with other providers:** contact unison@york.ac.uk first to express your interest, we will advise on how to proceed with making a booking.

**Bursaries for Level 2 / intermediate level and Level 3 / advanced level courses:** apply for these by contacting unison@york.ac.uk first. The branch will send you a form to complete, which we will then send on to the education provider to make the booking. Please **DO NOT** pay for any course before checking funding is available at the branch and your application has been approved.

**Please note:** you cannot apply for more than one course per term. All courses are offered subject to funding, on a first come, first served basis. Funding is reviewed termly. You have to be a member for a minimum of 4 weeks to qualify.

Forthcoming drop-in sessions

The UNISON Branch office is in Wentworth, W/022. The branch regularly runs drop-in clinics for all your work related questions and requests. The next clinics will take place:

- **Wednesday 20 February 2019**
- **Friday 8 March 2019**

Bookable appointments are available from 12 noon – 1:00 pm, and drop-in times are 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Make an appointment by emailing: unison@york.ac.uk
FREE one day taster courses for UNISON members
A chance to sample UNISON’s award winning courses—Return to Learn and Women’s Lives. These courses are designed for members who want to ease themselves back into learning. UNISON are offering members the opportunity to attend a one day taster workshop to find out more about the courses, boost your confidence and engage with exciting and fun activities.

The full courses are due to start in September 2019, and are free to UNISON members.

Return to Learn taster workshops
Leeds: Saturday 25 May 2019 at Swarthmore Education Centre (apply by 22 April 2019)
Sheffield: Saturday 15 June 2019 at The Circle (apply by 10 May 2019)

Women’s Lives taster workshops
Huddersfield: Saturday 18 May 2019 at St John’s Resource Centre (apply by 15 April 2019)
Barnsley: Saturday 8 June 2019 at Hope House (apply by 3 May 2019)

All workshops run from 10:00 am—3:00 pm

What is Return to Learn?
A 16 week course developing your study skills and giving you confidence in areas such as writing, problem solving and computer skills. Study groups meet on an evening weekly or fortnightly at a local venue. Each session lasts up to two and a half hours. Return to Learn will run in Leeds and Sheffield starting from September 2019.

What is Women’s Lives?
A 10 week course looking at issues of interest to women and drawing on experiences at work and personal life. The aim is to build confidence as well as study skills. Study groups meet once weekly or fortnightly in the evening at a local venue lasting two hours. Women’s Lives will run in Barnsley and Huddersfield starting from September 2019.

To apply, download an application form, or call the Education team on 0113 2182330
http://www.unison-yorks.org.uk/education.html
Please ensure you complete your application with your chosen workshop.
Any queries and completed application forms should be forwarded to: r.bent@unison.co.uk

Campaign for fair treatment of Tier 2 staff
A group of Tier 2 staff are campaigning for fair treatment of non-EU nationals at the University of York. If you are interested in joining, please see: http://bit.ly/Tier2forum or contact:
adrian.villasenor-lopez@york.ac.uk

#Bustice transport petition
Steph Hayle, YUSU Community & Wellbeing Officer, is campaigning for an improved public transport system in York to better serve the whole community. The #Bustice campaign includes a petition to City of York Council to call for a public inquiry into the current transport system. Read more about the campaign and sign the petition here: bit.ly/Busticeblog